

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 10 is being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 11-14 are currently being amended. Claim 11 has been amended to be in independent form, and to correct informalities. Claims 12-14 have been amended to be consistent with the amendments to claim 11. No new matter has been added.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-9 and 11-14 are now pending in this application, of which claims 1-9 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants note that the present application is a national stage application of PCT/2004/JP/0188082, where the certified copies of the priority document are provided with the PCT application.

Claim objections

Claims 10-14 were objected to for informalities in claims 10 and 11. This objection is moot with respect to claim 10, which has been cancelled. Claim 11, which has been amended to include features from claim 10, has been amended according to the suggestions of the Patent Office, and thus the claim objections have been overcome.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 11-14 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 11 has been amended to be in independent form incorporating features from original claim 10, from which it depended, and has further been amended to overcome objections based on informalities as discussed above. Claim 11 is believed to be in allowable form based on the indications of allowable subject matter by the Patent Office. Claims 12-14 depend from claim 11, and are thus likewise in allowable form.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,107,239 to Qin et al. Without agreeing with the propriety of this rejection, and in order to expedite allowance of the application, claim 10 has been cancelled rendering this rejection moot.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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